

then the club shall have the right to exercise any one of the following options:

- (1) The club may place such player on its Reserve List as a Retired Player; or
 - (2) The club may reduce its active roster to provide a place thereon for such player; or
 - (3) The club may waive such player or another player from its Active List.
- (C) Any player placed on the Reserve List as a Retired Player under the circumstances described in Section 17.15(B)(1) above shall remain on the Reserve List of the club for the balance of that season. In such event the obligation of the player to perform services as a professional football player for the club in that season shall be tolled. The term of such player's contract to his club for the balance of that season shall be extended and shall not commence until the player returns to professional football for such club. Additionally, any renewal option for such player's services shall be tolled and shall remain in effect until the end of such extended term of the contract. During any such retirement period, such player shall not be allowed to play football for any other club engaged in professional football; neither shall such player be entitled to any compensation, expenses, or other payments from his club under his contract.
- (D) Any player placed on the Reserve List as a Retired Player under the provisions described in Section 17.15(B)(1) shall not be entitled to reinstatement as an Active Player for the balance of the season in which such retirement occurs.
- (E) He cannot practice for the season.
- (F) Any violation or attempt to evade the player limit is conduct detrimental to football.

Reserve/Injured

17.16 The following rules govern Reserve/Injured:

- (A) **Purpose.** Reserve/Injured is a category of the Reserve List. A club may use this category for a player who is injured in a practice session or game of his club in any year after having passed the club's physical examination in that year. If a play-

er fails the club's initial physical examination in any year, he is not eligible for Reserve/Injured; the club may instead use the procedures of Physically Unable to Perform or Non-Football Injury/Illness, whichever is applicable. A Non-Football Injury or Illness case may, in some circumstances, fall under the procedures of Reserve/Injured, but only if such injury or illness occurs after the player has passed the club's physical for that year.

- (B) **Participation While on Reserve/Injured.** Players on Reserve/Injured at any time may not play or practice or engage in any drill or any physical activity other than that required as part of their rehabilitation with that club for the remainder of the season, including postseason, under any circumstances. Players on Reserve/Injured are prohibited from appearing in games, participating in game-day warm-ups with their teams, dressing in game uniforms on game days, or representing their teams in pregame ceremonies. Reserve/Injured players may, however, attend team meetings, engage in rehabilitative work under the direction of the club's physician or trainer, observe practice, and serve their clubs on the sidelines, provided they perform a necessary function connected with the game, dress in clothing issued by the club to its game staff, and display appropriate credentials under the prevailing rules covering the bench areas.
- (C) **Compensation While on Reserve/Injured.** Players on Reserve/Injured are compensated at the full rate of their NFL Player Contracts (Paragraph 5).
- (D) **Injury Definition.** For purposes only of administering the procedures of Reserve/Injured, a minor injury is one which renders a player physically unable to play football for any period less than six weeks (42 calendar days) from the date of injury. Conversely, a major injury is one which renders a player physically unable to play football for a minimum of six weeks (42 calendar days) from the date of injury.
- (E) **Documentation.** All determinations of recovery time for major and minor injuries must be by the club's medical staff and in accordance with the club's medical standards. Such prognosis must be documented on the form "Verification of Injury/Illness Report," which must be completed in full by the club physician and countersigned by a working club executive or the head coach. This form must be filed in the League office within 15 days after the date the player is officially added to Reserve/Injured; if not, the club forfeits a spot on its Active

List until it complies. The prognosis of the player's recovery time should be as precise as possible. When the verification form is received by the League office, the case receives a major or minor injury classification, which remains fixed unless the Commissioner grants special permission to reclassify after considering a revised prognosis by the club.

The League's medical examination procedures shall include a network of qualified neutral physicians in each club's territory (including the training camp area). Such physicians shall be available to examine players within a short time (usually less than a week) after a player is injured.

- (F) **Evasion.** The Commissioner is authorized to take whatever steps he deems necessary to investigate any Reserve/Injured case that he has reason to believe may not have been handled properly by the involved club. If he determines that a club has abused the procedures of Reserve/Injured in order to evade the player limit or for any other reason, he may take appropriate disciplinary action.
- (G) **Minor Injuries.** If a club places a player with a minor injury onto Reserve/Injured, such player must be placed on no-recall waivers as soon as, in the judgment of the club, he is physically able to play football. Such players may not be reacquired by the club for the remainder of the season, including the postseason. This definition of a minor injury shall be applicable throughout the remainder of the season, including postseason, even if less than six weeks remain in a club's season. If, despite the original classification of minor injury, the player's recovery time continues into the following year, the waiver request must be before April 15.
- (H) **Contract Restrictions.** Whenever a player becomes subject to waivers under the rules governing Reserve/Injured, there must be no subsequent renegotiations or modification of his contract that constitutes a deterrent to claims by other clubs.
- (I) **N-F/I After Passing Physical.** Players who go onto the Reserve List under Non-Football Injury or Illness after passing the club's physical examination may not play or practice with the club for the remainder of the season, including postseason, under any circumstances, except for players placed on Reserve/NF/I pursuant to the terms of the NFL Drug Policy. Players on Reserve/Non-Football Illness/Injury shall not be traded.